

Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert

Recreation Information Update

August 4 - 10, 2010

Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Junction of US HWY 395 & SR 136
Lone Pine, California 93545

(760) 876-6222
TDD 876-6228

Open Daily: 8:00am to 6:00pm

ROADS: Eastern Sierra roads are open including US Hwy 395. Trans Sierra roads are open. Call 1-800-427-ROAD (1-800-427-7623), or visit the website at www.dot.ca.gov, for California highway conditions and construction schedules. For Nevada roads, visit the web at www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads or call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237).

Don't miss the sights - Let someone else drive! **YARTS** (The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System) runs daily from the communities of Mammoth Lakes, June Lake & Lee Vining to Yosemite Valley; visit the web at www.yarts.com for a schedule.

Shuttle bus service to **DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT** and Reds Meadow is in operation. Day visitors and backpackers must use the shuttle bus, as access and parking is limited. Visit the **MAMMOTH LAKES WELCOME CENTER** for shuttle information, current recreation conditions, trail maps, wilderness permits and visitor guides; open 8:00am to 5:00pm daily, or call 1-760-924-5500.

Major highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open; know and use **hot weather** safety tips. The Big Pine, Devils Golf Course, West Side, Salt Creek, Mahogany Flat and Charcoal Kilns dirt roads are open. Titus Canyon road is open; high clearance vehicles recommended. The North Pass into Saline Valley is open, high clearance 4x4 vehicles recommended. The South Pass into Saline Valley road is open but very rough; high clearance vehicles recommended (watch for rocks). Rangers ask visitors traveling to remote desert valleys to leave a complete itinerary at home, obtain a good backcountry road map and be prepared for the unexpected. Drivers need to be sure their vehicle is in good condition and to carry an additional spare tire, extra gas, food and water. Check the website at www.nps.gov/deva ("Plan Your Visit & Things To Do" section) for descriptions of backcountry roads, and the Morning Report for current information.

WEATHER: Sunny days with breezy afternoon conditions should continue over the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave regions into early next week. A chance of isolated thunderstorms is forecast for the mountains north of Yosemite starting Saturday. Temperatures are expected to be near normal. Highs have been in the upper 40s in the mountains, upper 90s in the Owens Valley and over 115 in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the 30s in the mountains to the upper 80s in Death Valley.

CAMPGROUNDS: **INYO COUNTY, MONO COUNTY** and **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** sites are open. Privately operated campgrounds and RV facilities with hookups are open throughout the region.

INYO and HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FORESTS, Lone Pine to Bridgeport, campgrounds are open. **BEARS ARE ACTIVE** - use food storage lockers when provided and check with campground hosts for more information. Please make sure that all food and trash is properly stored. Some Forest Service campsites are reservable; family sites 240 days in advance and group sites 360 days ahead of arrival. Check the website at recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777 for more information.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - Yosemite Valley, Wawona (SR 41), Hodgdon Meadows (SR 120 near Big Oak Flat), Crane Flat and Tuolumne Meadows have sites open and reservable. Reservations are accepted five months in advance on the 15th of each month, for a one-month block through recreation.gov; or call 1-877-444-6777. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Porcupine Flat, Yosemite Creek, White Wolf, Tamarack Flat, Bridalveil Creek (on Glacier Point Road), Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley, one-half of Crane Flat and one-half of Tuolumne Meadows. Call 1-209-372-0200 for Yosemite information, or visit the park web site at www.nps.gov/yose.

In **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK**, open campgrounds include: Furnace Creek, Mesquite Springs, Emigrant (tent only/free), Thorndike (no water/no fee/no campfires), Mahogany Flat (no water/no fee/no campfires) and Wildrose (no water/no fee/no campfires). Visit the park website at www.nps.gov/deva for more information. RV hook-ups are available at Furnace Creek Ranch, Stovepipe Wells Village and Panamint Springs Resort.

Campgrounds are open in the **SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST** on the Kern River and at Lake Isabella on a reservation, or a first-come/first-served basis. For more information, call 1-760-376-3781 or visit the web at www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia.

Cooperating Agencies of the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Inyo County

California - Department of Transportation

Bureau of Land Management

California - Department of Fish & Game

National Park Service

Mono County

City of Los Angeles - Department of Water & Power

USDA - Forest Service

FISHING: The general fishing season is open in the Eastern Sierra and its waters are stocked regularly by the California Department of Fish and Game. The 2010 Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide is available at sporting good stores throughout the region. Copies of California fishing regulations are available at the Visitor Center, or on the web at www.dfg.ca.gov.

WATER SPORTS: RAFTING SEASON on the **KERN RIVER** is off to a great start - experience required. Permits and special restrictions are in effect; for information contact the Kern River Ranger Station in Kernville or call 1-760-376-3781.

BACKCOUNTRY: Backpackers should be prepared for sudden weather changes. Sunglasses, sunscreen and mosquito repellent are a must! Watch for lightning, which can occur with thunderstorms. **Be Bear Aware** when parking at trailheads - vehicles must not be left with any food or related items that will attract these animals and result in significant damage.

BEARS (and other hungry animals, including marmots) are active in the backcountry. Backpackers should be prepared to protect their food (and all other items that emit odors) from such animals at all times! Backpackers are required to use portable, bear resistant food canisters on the Cottonwood Pass, Cottonwood Lakes, Mt. Whitney, Kearsarge Pass, Bishop Pass, Treasure Lakes, Dusy Basin, Palisade, Little Lakes Valley, Duck Pass/Purple Lake and Mammoth Lakes/Rush Creek trails of the National Forest and some Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park trails. They are available to rent at many locations including the Visitor Center.

WILDERNESS PERMITS are required for overnight travel all year long. Trailhead quotas, which limit the number of hikers on trails, are in effect for Eastern Sierra wilderness areas, permits may be obtained at the InterAgency Visitor Center (Lone Pine), Bishop Ranger Station, Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center (Lee Vining) and Bridgeport Ranger Station during office hours. For information on Inyo National Forest wilderness permits, please visit the website at www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo. Reservations for these permits (except Whitney) can be made up to six months in advance of the starting date of a trip, by phone at 1-760-873-2483, fax to 1-760-873-2484, or by mail - 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA, 93514.

THIS WEEK'S FUN: 12TH ANNUAL KERN RIVER VALLEY HUMMINGBIRD CELEBRATION, SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 8AM - 2PM. Nature walks, outdoor presentations, and great birding are planned at the Kern River Preserve in Weldon, to honor these feathered dynamos. Visit the web site at www.audubon.org/local/sanctuary/kernriver for more information. Bring a lunch and shoes for walking.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

MONO COUNTY MUSEUM in Bridgeport is open Tuesday - Saturday from 9:00am to 4:00pm, with great exhibits and photos of old mining days, also a fine collection of Paiute baskets.

BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK is open daily 8:00am to 6:00pm; the museum is open from 9:00am to 5:00pm. A history talk is presented daily at 10:00am. Other interpretive programs are offered; check at the museum for more information. Visitors should bring food and several layers of clothes for a visit to Bodie; dogs must be on a six ft. leash (recreation fee area).

Interpretive programs are offered at the **MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA/TUFA STATE RESERVE**. Nature walks are presented daily at 10:00am, 1:00pm and 6:00pm. Meet at the South Tufa parking lot near the south shore of Mono Lake (recreation fee). Check at the Visitor Center for a complete list of activities on this remarkable lake, one mile north of Lee Vining on HWY 395, open 8:00am to 5:00pm Sunday through Thursday and from 8:00am to 7:00pm Friday and Saturday.

Visit the **MAMMOTH MUSEUM**, in the historic Emmet Haden Cabin, and discover Mammoth Gold Rush Days. Exhibits and many photos give life to those exciting times; the museum is open daily, 10:00am to 6:00pm.

Remember the days of the "Slim Princess"! Visit **LAWS RAILROAD MUSEUM & HISTORIC SITE**, four miles north of Bishop on HWY 6, to learn of early days in the Owens Valley. Laws is open daily 10:00am to 4:00pm.

EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM in Independence is open from 10:00am to 5:00pm daily with exhibits on Inyo County, including a significant collection of Native American baskets and artifacts from Manzanar NHS.

The Interpretive Center at **MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**, located 5 miles south of Independence, is open daily from 8:30am to 5:00pm. Ranger programs are presented on Saturday and Sunday at 11:00am and 2:00pm. For more program information, call 1-760-878-2194 ext. 2710. Water, sunglasses and sunscreen are a must - Please No Pets!

Visit the **MUSEUM OF LONE PINE FILM HISTORY**, with exhibits celebrating the heroes, the films and the locations of the many movies shot in the area. A special orientation film is available on request. The museum opens daily at 10:00am, closing at 6:00pm Monday through Wednesday, at 7:00pm Thursday through Saturday, and at 4:00pm on Sunday.

BLM JAWBONE STATION REGIONAL OHV FACILITY is open 9:00am to 5:00pm daily for trip assistance. The station is located 25 miles north of Mojave on SR 14 for pre-trip information; call 1-760-373-1146.

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER at Furnace Creek is open daily from 8:00am to 5:00pm. **SCOTTY'S CASTLE** has "Living History" tours from 9:30am to 4:00pm daily.

Visit the **KERN VALLEY MUSEUM** to explore the fascinating history of the Old West through artifacts and memorabilia that make history come alive, in Kernville; open 10:00am to 4:00pm Thursday through Sunday.

Reports on current recreation conditions, schedules of planned events and detailed information on visitor destinations throughout the Eastern Sierra Nevada and Northern Mojave Desert are available daily at the Visitor Center. 8/4/10kcw